

REMARKS

Applicant regrets the necessity for adding new claims and making another revision at this late point in the prosecution.

Claim 51 is amended to further narrow it.

New claim 79 more emphatically distinguishes a "circuit breaker" as suggested by the Examiner in the interviews.

New claim 80 provides coverage of intermediate breadth between claims 1 and 2.

New claims 81 through 84 are specifically pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, in the interviews, that the Applicant seek protection explicitly directed to the particular configuration(s) presented in Applicant's specification. The Examiner indicated that he would be more favorable to such claims rather than to claims which, as the Examiner put it in the interviews, are "abstract".

With respect, the Applicant submits that the already-existing claims are not "abstract"; and also that, in any event, there is no authority for rejecting or for disfavoring claims that are "abstract" — as long as they particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Indeed, claims that more mechanistically recite the particular configurations presented in the spec are

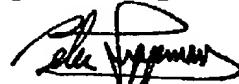
more likely to be overly narrow, i. e. too easily circumvented by putative infringers.

It is agreed, however, that the Applicant is entitled to such more mechanistic claims, and such claims are accordingly presented herein. The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for this suggestion.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance. In addition, noting the extremely high cost of continuing prosecution of this application — not only to the Applicants but to the Government as well — it is earnestly requested that, should there appear any obstacle to allowance of the claims herein, the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney to try to resolve the obstacle.

Respectfully submitted,



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